

Message Text

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47

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-03 INR-10 LAB-01

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 AGR-03 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 L-02

NSC-07 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 USIA-04 TRSE-00 STR-01

CIEP-01 DRC-01 /068 W

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R 100929Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9793

INFO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ETRA, EAGR, XZ, DA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF CESAR CHAVEZ TO DENMARK

REF COPENHAGEN 2680

1. CESAR CHAVEZ, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED FARM WORKERS (UFW), AND TWO UNION OFFICIALS VISITED COPENHAGEN OCTOBER 4 TO SEEK DANISH TRADE UNION SUPPORT FOR THE UFW'S BOYCOTT OF CALIFORNIA GRAPES. HE MET WITH OFFICIALS OF THE SPECIAL- WORKERS UNION IN DENMARK (SID), WHICH REPRESENTS STEVEDORES AND TRANSPORT WORKERS, CALLED ON THE DANISH TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO), AND WAS A LUNCHEON GUEST OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMAN, THE FORMER PRIME MINISTER, ANKER JORGENSEN.

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CHAVEZ AND PARTY DID NOT SEE LO PRESIDENT THOMAS

NIELSEN, WHO WAS TIED UP AT ALL-DAY MEETING OF THE LO'S EXECUTIVE BOARD.

2. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE MAJOR PROBLEM FOR THE DANISH UNIONS IS THE LEGAL NATURE OF THE UFW'S CURRENT CONFLICT. DANISH LABOR LAW MIGHT PERMIT SYMPATHY ACTION IN CASES OF AN OUTRIGHT GROWER-UNION CONFLICT, BUT WOULD CERTAINLY EXCLUDE IT IN CASES OF A JURISDICTIONAL CONFLICT BETWEEN TWO UNIONS. IN THIS REGARD, CHAVEZ MADE SOME PROGRESS DURING THE VISIT; THE LO'S LEGAL SECTION HAS AGREED TO SEND HIM A LISTING OF THE DOCUMENTATION NEEDED TO SUSTAIN A FINDING FROM THE DANISH LABOR COURT THAT THE UFW'S STRUGGLE IS A GROWER-UNION CONFLICT. WHEN THIS DOCUMENTATION IS RECEIVED, THE LO AND THE SLD HAVE PROMISED TO CONSIDER ONCE AGAIN THE INPOSITION OF A BAN ON OFF-LOADING OR TRANSPORTING NON-UFW-PICKED GRAPES.

3. SOURCES AT BOTH LO AND SID INFORMED LABATT THAT THEY WERE, HOWEVER, VERY DOUBTFUL THAT THE UFW CASE COULD BE SUCCESSFULLY DOCUMENTED UNDER DANISH CRITERIA OF A "LEGAL STRIKE." MOREOVER, THEY HAVE LITTLE CONFIDENCE IN THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A CONSUMER BOYCOTT, AFTER THE FAILURE OF SUCH A BOYCOTT ON IMPORTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA SOME YEARS AGO. IT IS THEREFORE PROBABLE THAT THE DANES ARE MERELY PROCRASTINATING UNTIL DEVELOPMENTS ELSEWHERE RESOLVE THE PROBLEM. IT REMAINS DOUBTFUL THAT A CONSUMER BOYCOTT WILL BE DECLARED, MUCH LESS ANY MORE FORECFUL ACTION.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE DANISH LABOR MOVEMENT IS ANXIOUS TO CONTRIBUTE AS MUCH PUBLICITY AS POSSIBLE TO CHAVEZ' CAMPAIGN AND HELPED ASSURE THAT HIS VISIT IN COPENHAGEN RECEIVED EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE. A GENERALLY RELIABLE SOURCE INFORMED THE LABATT THAT ANKER JORGENSEN PROMISED TO VISIT CHAVEZ AND THE UFW IN CALIFORNIA IF HIS PLANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES NEXT YEAR CAN BE REALIZED.

5. AN INTERESTING SIDELIGHT TO THE VISIT WAS THE ROLE, OR NON-ROLE, PLAYED BY THE NORWEGIAN UFW REPRESENTATIVE, HELGE CHRISTOPHERSEN. ALTHOUGH HE WAS IN COPENHAGEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OCT 4, HE WAS NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND THE TALKS SINCE HE IS NOT TRUSTED BY THE SID. ACCORDING TO AN LO SOURCE, CHRISTOPHERSEN WAS FIRED BY THE UFW IN JULY, BUT MANAGED SUBSEQUENTLY TO EXONERATE HIMSELF SUFFICIENTLY TO BE REINSTATED.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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